



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

United States Attorney Michael L. Levy today announced the filing of an Indictment¹ against Soko Kanneh and Justine Wright, charging them with possessing altered United States Currency. The defendants were caught in a sting operation by the Secret Service as they attempted to sell black paper they claimed was true U.S. currency. This was a "Black Money Scheme." The defendants claimed they had genuine blackened or stained U.S. currency which could be washed clean with a special solution. They demonstrated a "washing" of genuine bills which were in fact blackened, and then made clean with the solution, to convince the victims that the remaining black paper was money, when in reality it was simply construction paper. The defendants attempted to sell the worthless black paper and accompanying cleaning solution for \$100,000 claiming the paper was the equivalent of \$200,000 worth of currency.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE DEFENDANTS

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE OR YEAR OF BIRTH
Soko Kanneh	Philadelphia, PA	1988
Justine Wright	Philadelphia, PA	1979

If convicted the defendants face a maximum possible sentence of 90 year imprisonment.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Maria M. Carrillo.

¹An Indictment or Information is an accusation. A defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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